variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services.

Essential features of the 3G service are Enhanced Voice capability, High Speed Internet Access, Video calling, Video Conferencing, Video On Demand, Video Streaming, Mobile TV, Mobile Broadband, etc.

(d) 3G facilities are provided to the public after due verification of identity and address proof documents BSNL and MTNL offer tariff plans for both prepaid connections.

(e) and (f) One spectrum block of 5 MHz has been allocated to the MTNL (Delhi and Mumbai) and BSNL in all other 20 service areas. 3G spectrum would be allocated to private operators on the basis of an auction which will determine the price to be paid by the buyers. BSNL and MTNL will not participate in auction but will pay the matching price of successful bidder(s).

Fishermen/Boats in custody of Pakistan

*189. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 394 Indian fishing boats and 400 Indian fishermen are captured and kept in custody by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency; and

(b) if so, the action that Government is taking to get the boats and fishermen released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) 556 Indian fishermen and 418 boats are in the custody of the Pakistan authorities. Government has been consistently taking up with the Government of Pakistan, including at the highest level, the issue of Indians in custody in Pakistan. A judicial committee comprising of retired judges from India and Pakistan had also been set up to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The committee has held three meetings till date and has visited the jails in both India and Pakistan to meet prisoners and fishermen. A delegation from the Fishermen Association of Gujarat visited Pakistan in October 2008 to verify the sea-worthiness of these boats. Government continues to urge the Government of Pakistan to view the issue of prisoners and fishermen in custody from a humanitarian angle and facilitate their earliest possible repatriation.

Plan for female sportspersons

*190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any plan specifically for female sportspersons in terms of infrastructure and incentives; and